

REMARKS

At the time of the Office Action dated March 5, 2008, claims 2-5, 8, 10-13, 16, 18-21, and 24-27 were pending in this application. Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, the Examiner's allowance of claims 2-5, 8, 10-13, 16, 25, and 26.

In this Amendment, claims 18-21, 24, and 27 have been canceled, without prejudice, reserving right to prosecution in a continuation application. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Claims 2-5, 8, 10-13, 16, 25, and 26 are now active in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement is filed concurrently with this Amendment. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to acknowledge receipt of the IDS and provide a copy of the PTO-1449 form appropriately initialed indicating consideration of the cited references.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

Claims 18-21, 24, and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The claims have been canceled. Withdrawal of the rejection of the claims is, therefore, respectfully solicited.

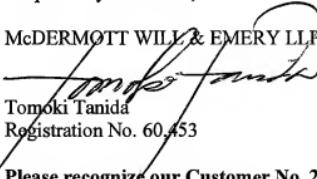
Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application should be allowed and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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